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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Subject: Pavlychko and Drach at N.Y. University

Source: H. and MAC

Date: Dec. 12, 1966

Dec.

1) On Saturday ~~Nov.~~ Dec. 10, 1966 the Department of Slavic Studies at New York Univ. held an evening dedicated to the poetry of the UkSSR. The moderator of the evening was Prof. MAGIDOV from NYU and the guests who were to read their works Ivan DRACH and Dmytra PAVLYCHKO both of whom are presently with the UkSSR delegation to the General Assembly. Prof. Ivan FIZER from Rutgers Univ. delivered the opening statements, briefly acquainting the audience with Ukrainian literature. He mentioned the earlier works of Ukr. poetry of the 1920's among which the works of Pavlo TYCHYNA stand out the most. This early period was followed by an era of silence. The 1960's brought on a new resurgence of poets of which Vasyl' SYMONENKO, Lina KOSTENKO, Mykola VINHRANOVSKYY and SYNHAYIVSKYY are the better known. This brief introduction was followed by the readings of the guest poets. Their works were read in English by Maria MALANCHUK and MARTA ~~CEHEL'SKY, who~~ ~~used the translations by Patricia KYLYNA - TARNAWSKA, Marta BOHACHEWSKA - CHOMIAK, Yuriy TARNAWSKY and Marko TSARYNNYK.~~ In the process of the evening the poets read 9 of their works, *each*.

2) Following the readings the people in the audience were allowed to ask questions of the guest poets. Following are some of the questions posed to the guests.

Q. (Roman MAC) - Why is it that Ukr. poetry began to flourish only in the 1960's

A. (DRACH) - The past decade did not present suitable conditions for the development of poetry as is the case today. The recent Congress of Ukr. writers in Kiev shows the literary daring. Having this in mind it can be mentioned that the opening speech of the head of the Congress of the Writers of the Ukraine was excellent.

Q. It is interesting to listen to poets with diplomatic passports but send us L. KOSTENKO, M. VINHRANOVSKYY and others.

A. Your desires are also ours. We shall do everything possible that they may come here.

1- DRACH

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Q. (Mykola STEPANENKO) - Reading the Literaturna Ukraina which is published in Kiev and comparing it to the Literaturna Gazetta which comes out in the Russian language it can be said that the Literaturna Ukraina is a much better publication. However it seems odd that the first page of this paper carries news about collective farm works which have nothing to do with literature. Lately it has been reported by news media that the two present guest poets have been elected to the executive board to the Union of Writers of the Ukraine. Can anything be done to improve this fault.

A. (DRACH) - Personally I am unsatisfied with the level of Literaturna Ukraina. The fault is not that it reports about collective farms but the way in which this is written. I am trying to convince PAVLYCHKO to take up the editorship and then this condition can be improved.

(PAVLYCHKO) - I agree to become editor if DRACH will agree to write articles often.

Q. How do you explain the fact that Ukrainian poetry began to develop anew only in the last few years?

A. (PAVLYCHKO) The Ukrainian poetry of the Soviet period has gone through two phases: the 1920s, of which representative were the works of Pavlo Tychyna, Maksym Rylsky and others, and the poetry of the 1960s. The reason for this break was that the conditions were rather impossible for the development of poetry during the personality cult period, with its physical destruction of the Ukrainian writers, and creative intelligentsia. But these conditions were not limited to Ukraine. Still, even during this break, a few good poems were written, among them those by Rylsky, Sosyura's "Love Ukraine" and one or two others.

Q. (Oksana BAKUM) . Why is there nothing about the cinema art in the journal Mystetstvo ?

A. (DRACH) -- If we want to talk about the level of this art then the magazine Mystetstvo (Art) reflects it best, and no comments are needed here. In order to lift the level of the magazine, ~~then~~ better editorial staff is needed.

Q. (BLYZNAK) -- On the one hand we hear about the development in Ukrainian literature and on the other -- about the arrests of a whole number of writers, among them Svitlychny and Dzyuba.

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A. (PAVLYCHKO) -- We have already had occasion to reply to that question several times. Dzyuba was not arrested. Svitlychny was arrested and released. I don't know of any other arrested persons, other than Horyn, that may be considered as writers. I don't know of any other writers that were arrested. There were some intellectuals arrested for their political activity; ~~they~~ ^{they} conducted anti-Soviet propaganda.

Q. (Vitaliy KEYS) -- Much too often the word Ukraina is used. In poetry it becomes boring.

A. (DRACH) -- There must be some misunderstanding here. One cannot do without the words Ukraina, ukrainsky, etc. because then these works would be like a man without a brain.

A (PAVLYCHKO) -- Mr. Key~~y~~ is right, in a way. Too much emphasis on cheap patriotism may lead to nausea. On the other hand, to break away from one's Ukrainism means to deny one's existence.

Q. (Yuri MACYK) Wonders whether there's any chance for a return to something like Stalinism?

A (Drach) -- That's an interesting question. We have answered it partially in our previous answers. We will do all we can to prevent the bad times of the past from returning.

Q. (Roman MAC) -- Mention was already made about the magazine Mystetstvo. This is a periodical of cinema, theatre, painting and sculpture, and music. It comprises 90 - 120 pages and comes out quarterly. Soviet Ukraine will soon celebrate its 50th anniversary, but as we see, it is still unable to have ^{separate} ~~separate~~ periodical for each of these forms of art.

Other, smaller countries like Poland and Yugoslavia have two periodicals devoted to music and cinema. This is what the protest of the arrested Ukrainian intellectuals was all about. They demanded the ~~stop~~ stop to Russification, but surely this cannot be construed as anti-Soviet propaganda. Otherwise, why did the Soviet press keep silent about the arrests, and why were the trials held secretly? From these thoughts, another question comes up to my mind: Is it possible that 20 intellectuals could be so dangerous to the Soviet ~~Union~~ Union, which will soon be 50 years old, that they had to be exiled outside the borders of Ukraine?

A. (Pavlychko) (First he looked at his watch). Our time is very precious. I will try to answer briefly. About those arrested: to my knowledge only Horyn was sentenced. Among those arrested were former Ukrainian nationalists

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who were spreading anti-Soviet propaganda. I doubt that those arrested demanded more Ukrainian periodicals, though we do need more. Next year we will be publishing a magazine devoted to music. Still, we writers did defend those arrested. As to the question whether the arrested persons were threatening the Soviet Union, I doubt that too. Our powerful dictatorial state could have done much worse things to them. We do have a dictatorship, that is only now becoming a democracy.

(Pavlychko did not like the above question and comments, and Prof. Magidov noticed it, and said there will be no more political questions.)

Q. (STEPANENKO) Is the rehabilitation of Khvylovy and Vynnychenko possible? Also, is it possible to acquaint the people in Ukraine with the works of the emigre Ukrainians?

A. (DRACH) - It is possible that the non-political works of Khvylovy and Vynnychenko will be published. As for the emigre works, we will try to do something in this field, in particular, we would like to acquaint the Ukrainians with the works of the "New York Group".

Q. Why has no one written about the famine in Ukraine? only about Babiy Yar?

A. (PAVLYCHKO) -- It's not bad that Ukrainians are writing about Babiy Yar. What Yevtushenko has done should have been done by Ukrainians. Incidentally, Bazhan wrote earlier about Babiy Yar. Drach also wrote about it recently. An opinion has developed in the West that Ukrainian writers are anti-Semitic. This is untrue and insulting. Ivan Franko and Lesya Ukrainka wrote poems glorifying the Jews. Ukrainian literature must not fail to mention the famine. Some writers are already working on it, among them Kozachenko and Stelmakh.

At the end Prof. Magidov asked Drach to read his immortal "Sunflower" and then Pavlychko thanked the host for the evening.

After the program ended, someone introduced Drach to the sister of Lesya Ukrainka. ~~Drach was observed~~ Pavlychko was observed talking to Magidov in Ukrainian, while Magidov spoke Russian.

Books : Handed to Drach: Osyp Mandelshtam
N. Gumilov

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